

House Republican Press Release

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Press Office: 860-240-8700

Car Tax



By State Representative Bill Aman

On February 8th the Connecticut General Assembly convened for the 2006 legislative session. Governor M. Jodi Rell delivered her State of the State address at the opening of the session, and I believe she did a brilliant job in focusing on areas we need to address this session — job creation and tax relief. The Governor proposed a host of tax cuts, including the phase-out of the estate tax and the corporate surcharge tax, a 25% cut in utility taxes for business and property owners, and most notably, the elimination of the motor vehicle tax. It was fascinating to be in the House chamber when this was presented, as the legislature did not expect a bold and clear tax initiative.

I believe that the motor vehicle tax is an unwieldy and unfair tax. The car tax you pay in South Windsor may be much lower or much higher than you would pay for the same vehicle in another town. It is also an expensive tax to collect. Under Governor Rell's proposal, the State would send the Town of South Windsor the same amount of money that our citizens now pay in car taxes.

There will be some winners and losers if this change in tax policy becomes law. If you pay more than \$350 in car tax you win; if you are a renter who owns a car you win; if you have a lower income and don't pay state income tax you win. Those who are middle income and own inexpensive cars will lose. I am personally concerned that a sizeable number of seniors will be in this category and therefore I will be supporting a modification to the proposal that will address this problem.

The debate on this issue has only just begun and since this is an election year, the debate will be lively.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please call me at home (528-3564), email me (bill.aman@cga.ct.gov), or speak up when I see you at the Community Center or around town.